

# LEARN ABOUT AADC DEFICIENCY

## A rare genetic disorder of the central nervous system

- ▶ Aromatic L-amino Acid Decarboxylase (AADC) Deficiency is an autosomal recessive disease associated with defects in neurotransmitter synthesis, resulting in profound motor and autonomic dysfunction and developmental delay<sup>1-3</sup>
- ▶ AADC Deficiency can manifest with a broad spectrum of symptoms. The most common are<sup>1-3</sup>:
  - Hypotonia
  - Developmental delay
  - Movement disorders, especially oculogyric crisis

### Despite symptom onset during infancy, diagnosis is typically delayed<sup>2,3</sup>

**3.5** Mean age of diagnosis  
**3.5 years<sup>2</sup>**

**↔** Age range of diagnosis  
**2 months to 23 years<sup>2</sup>**

### How AADC Deficiency is diagnosed

- ▶ Earlier identification can help improve the care and management of patients with AADC Deficiency<sup>2,3</sup>
- ▶ Currently, these core tests can help diagnose AADC Deficiency<sup>2</sup>
  - CSF neurotransmitter metabolite panel
  - Plasma enzyme activity assay
  - Genetic testing

### Other tests that may be helpful<sup>2</sup>

- ▶ Blood level measurement of 3-OMD (3-O-methyldopa)
- ▶ Urinary organic acid analysis

Consensus guidelines recommend confirming an AADC Deficiency diagnosis with a genetic test<sup>2</sup>

▶ **To learn more about AADC Deficiency and no-cost diagnostic testing supported by PTC, visit [AADCinsights.com](https://www.aadcinsights.com)**

**References:** 1. Manegold C, Hoffmann GF, Degen I, et al. Aromatic L-amino acid decarboxylase deficiency: clinical features, drug therapy and follow-up. *J Inher Metab Dis.* 2009;32(3):371-380. 2. Wassenberg T, Molero-Luis M, Jeltsch K, et al. Consensus guideline for the diagnosis and treatment of aromatic L-amino acid decarboxylase (AADC) deficiency. *Orphanet J Rare Dis.* 2017;12(1):12. doi: 10.1186/s13023-016-0522-z. 3. Brun L, Ngu LH, Keng WT, et al. Clinical and biochemical features of aromatic L-amino acid decarboxylase deficiency. *Neurology.* 2010;75(1):64-7. 4. Krigger KW. Cerebral palsy: an overview. *Am Fam Physician.* 2006;73(1):91-100. 5. Ng J, Papandreou A, Heales SJ, et al. Monoamine neurotransmitter disorders—clinical advances and future perspectives. *Nat Rev Neurol.* 2015;11(10):567-584. 6. Kurian MA, Dale RC. Movement disorders presenting in childhood. *Continuum (Minneap Minn).* 2016;22(4 Movement Disorders):1159-1185. 7. Lee WT. Disorders of monoamine metabolism: inherited disorders frequently misdiagnosed as epilepsy. *Epilepsy & Seizure.* 2010;3(1):147-153. [https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/article/eands/3/1/3\\_1\\_147/\\_article-char/en](https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/article/eands/3/1/3_1_147/_article-char/en). Accessed February 6, 2019.

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### The challenge of a correct diagnosis

- ▶ Many of the most common symptoms of AADC Deficiency can also be attributed to a number of other conditions such as<sup>2,4-7</sup>:
  - Epilepsy
  - Cerebral palsy<sup>4,5</sup>
  - Neuromuscular weakness